

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9977

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN, RO, HU, BU

SUBJECT: STATUS OF DUAL NATIONALS AND IMMIGRANT CASES

REF: (A) STATE 189474; B. BUCHAREST 2217

1. EMBASSY REVIEWING ITS FILES OF DUAL NATIONALS AND IMMIGRANT CASES, AND WILL SUBMIT UPDATED LIST BY OM NEXT WEEK. FROM NOW ON LISTS WILL BE UPDATED AT BEGINNING OF EACH MONTH. CASES WILL BE DIVIDED INTO THE FOLLOWING TWO CATEGORIES: DUAL NATIONALS, AND QUALIFIED IMMIGRANTS. THE LATTER GROUP WILL BE FURTHER DIVIDED INTO DIFFERENT PREFERENCES (IR'S AND PL-6'S). LISTS WILL INCLUDE ONLY THOSE CASES FOR WHICH SOME ACTIVITY HAS BEEN NOTED SINCE 1972. A CHECK OF EMBASSY RECORDS REVEALS HUNDREDS OF CASES WHERE THE APPLICANTS FAILED TO APPEAR, OR DID NOT RETURN APPLICATIONS SENT TO THEM. THESE APPLICANTS WILL BE SENT QUESTIONNAIRES TO DETERMINE THE STATUS OF THEIR CASES.

2. EMBASSY SUBMITTED LATEST LIST TO MFA IN NOVEMBER, 1973. SINCE THEN APPROX. 300 IMMIGRANT VISAS HAVE BEEN ISSUED. OF THIS NUMBER, APPROX. 100 WERE ON NOVEMBER LIST SUBMITTED TO THE MFA BY THE EMBASSY. THE RESET WERE CASES APPROVED WITHOUT INORDINATE DELAY. MFA AND EMBASSY EXPECT TO COMPLETE REVIEW AND UPDATING OF NOVEMBER LIST BY SEPT. 13.

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3. DIFFICULTIES ARISE DETERMINING THE EXACT NUMBER OF EXIT PERMITS GRANTED BECAUSE THEY ARE OFTEN GIVEN FOR TRAVEL TO OTHER COUNTRIES BESIDES THE US. ALSO, APPLICANTS FAIL TO INFORM THE EMBASSY WHEN THEY LEAVE. MFA DOES NOT ROUTINELY INFORM EMBASSY OF PERMITS ISSUED UNLESS IT IS PRESSED TO DO SO IN SPECIFIC CASES. OTHER APPLICANTS CONTINUE TO BE CARRIED ON LIST ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE FOUND OTHER MEANS, LEGAT OR EXTRA-LEGAL, OF DEPARTING.

4. DUAL NATIONALS HAVE NOT FARED SO WELL. AN EXAMINATION OF RECORDS INDICATES THAT SINCE JAN 1, 1973 AT LEAST 136 OUT OF 176 DUAL NATIONALS HAVE BEEN DENIED RIGHT TO TRAVEL OUT OF ROMANIA ALTHOUGH HOLDING US PASSPORTS. ONLY A DOZEN APPLICATIONS FOR EXIT VISAS FOR DUAL NATIONALS HAVE BEEN APPROVED IN THE LAST TWO YEARS. AT PRESENT, 40 CASES ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION BY ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT.

5. FURTHER REPRESENTATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE BY EMBASSY SINCE LAST REFTEL. EMBASSY LAST REVIEWED LIST AS WHOLE WITH MFA IN JUNE. SPECIFIC CASES HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED WITH MFA ON AVERAGE OF TWICE PER MONTH IN RECENT MONTHS. APPROVALS OR REFUSALS TEND TO COME IN GROUPS, BASED ON DECISIONS BY INTERMINISTERIAL COMMISSION WHICH USUALLY MEETS BIMONTHLY. MFA ANNOUNCEMENTS OF APPROVALS HAVE OF LATE CONCERNED MAINLY MARRIAGE CASES, A CATEGORY THAT FALLS OUTSIDE DIVIDED FAMILIES AS SUCH.

6. NEW CASES ARE ADDED TO THE LIST AS IT IS UPDATED, ALTHOUGH THE NEW NAMES ARE NOT SUBMITTED TO MFA UNTIL IT IS APPARENT THE NEW APPLICANTS ARE ENCOUNTERING OBSTACLES IN OBTAINING EXIT PERMITS.

7. EMBASSY IS CURRENTLY EVALUATING MATERIAL IN ITS FILES WITH PURPOSE OF REVIEWING TACTICS FOR HANDLING DIVIDED FAMILY ISSUE. IN ADDITION TO PROCEDURES OUTLINED IN PARA 5, EMBASSY CONSIDERS RETURN TO CASE BY CASE PRESENTATION TO MFA MAY BE MORE EFFECTIVE. PAST EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT LIST PROCEDURE IS CUMBERSOME, AND LEADS TO MISINTERPRETATIONS BY BOTH PARTIES. GOR, FOR EXAMPLE, FREQUENTLY HAS TROUBLE LOCATING APPLICANTS ON A LIST.

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CASE METHOD OFFERS SOME ROOM FOR DISCUSSION OF MERITS OF INDIVIDUAL PROBLEM, THUS CONTRIBUTING TO DIALOGUE THAT MUST NECESSARILY TAKE PLACE IN FINDING SOLUTION TO WHOLE ISSUE.

8. AT MEETING WITH ROMANIAN MFA CONSULAR DIRECTOR CHIEF BADESCU TODAY, CONSUL REMINDED HIM THAT DIVIDED FAMILIES IS AN UNRESOLVED ISSUE OF GREAT CONCERN TO USG. DURING

CONVERSATION HE DREW ON REFTEL AND EMPHASIZED NEED TO  
RESOLVE ISSUE OF DIVIDED FAMILIES SO IT WILL CEASE TO BE  
AN OBSTACLE TO CLOSER US-ROMANIAN REALTIONS. BADESCU  
SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THIS, WOULD DO WHAT WAS IN HIS POWER  
TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM, AND HOPED THAT US, FOR ITS PART,  
WOULD MAKE EFFORT TO REDUCE VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR  
ROMANIANS TRAVELING TO US.  
BARNES

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